

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1312 - SB 1300

March 20, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Too Young to Test Act* that prohibits the administering of standardized tests to students in grades pre-K through second grade, except for diagnostic purposes or where otherwise required by federal law.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – A net mandatory increase in local government expenditures; the extent and duration of any such increased local expenditures are dependent upon several unknown factors and cannot be reasonably quantified.* In addition, a possible decrease in state expenditures; the extent and duration of which is dependent upon several unknown factors and cannot be reasonably quantified.

Assumptions:

- Based on information from the Department of Education, all schools are currently required to measure student achievement and response to instruction.
- The state funds second grade assessments for LEAs that choose to administer them.
- Under this legislation, LEA-wide standardized tests, which are tests that are substantially similar across an LEA cannot be used for pre-K through second grades.
- There will be a recurring decrease in local expenditures for LEAs as a result of LEAs no longer administering the current assessment exams.
- Public schools will be required to adopt new testing methods for student achievement measures in order to evaluate teachers, since 15 percent of each teacher's evaluation is required to include student achievement measures.
- Other measures of student achievement would likely be costly and difficult to develop, implement, and administer; certainly relative to the currently-accepted testing methods. As a result, LEAs will be required to develop new alternative evaluation methods for the purpose of student achievement which will be used for conducting teacher evaluations. Therefore, LEAs will incur mandatory increases in local expenditures.
- Further, it is anticipated that the mandatory increase in local expenditures occurring as the result of developing, implementing, and administering new test formats will exceed any cost savings realized by LEAs from no longer utilizing the current test methods. As a result, there will be a net mandatory increase in local expenditures that will occur over an unknown period of time while conversion takes place and becomes the new standard;

the extent and duration of such increased expenditures are dependent upon several unknown factors and cannot be reasonably quantified.

- To the extent the state continues to fund second grade assessments for diagnostic purposes per the legislation, there will be a net decrease in state expenditures as well from schools that opt not to provide the grade 2 assessment for diagnostic purposes and instead opt to provide another exam for assessment purposes at the school level; the extent and duration for the decreased state expenditures are dependent upon several unknown factors and cannot be reasonably quantified.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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